

REMARKS

Claims 2-6, 8-12 and 20 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections of the claims in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-12 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bush, Jr. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,486,899) in view of Petchenkine et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,380,951). This rejection is respectfully traversed. There is no motivation to combine the teaching of Bush, Jr. and Petchenkine et al. Even if the teachings of these references were combined, the combination does not reach Applicant's claims.

Bush, Jr. teaches a system for displaying logistics information using one or more computers including a presentation interface. The presentation interface displays a plurality of icons and a plurality of links, representing entities in a supply chain and distribution resources for moving items between the entities. A user interface for inputting data affecting an enterprise model is generically disclosed.

Petchenkine et al. teaches a system and computer program for configuring a prepress workflow using a graphical user interface. A prepress system design palette and modules toolbar has module icons representing different prepress hardware and/or software distributed object modules. Module icons are dragged into the prepress system design palette and linked based on user input.

There is no motivation to combine the teachings of Bush, Jr. and Petchenkine et al. Bush, Jr. teaches a two- or three-dimensional system for displaying pre-arranged

logistics information, particularly time-sensitive information. Petchenkine et al. teaches a graphical method of arranging the steps of a prepress workflow through selected hardware and distributed object modules. There is no teaching in Bush, Jr. for the use of a graphical method of building a workflow, nor is there any teaching in Petchenkine et al. for displaying the output performance of the supply chain as taught by Bush, Jr. However, even if the references were combined, the combination would not reach the Applicant's claims.

Claims 4 and 10 each require a perspective template having at least one supply chain icon, the perspective template providing a pre-populated framework to evaluate the manufacturing operation. Claim 20 requires a perspective template having a pre-arranged supply chain representation and a stencil including a plurality of iconic representations of elements for inclusion in the supply chain representation by the particular user. Bush, Jr. and Petchenkine et al., either alone or in combination, do not disclose these features.

In light of the foregoing remarks, claims 4, 10 and 20 should be considered allowable. Claims 2, 3, 5-9 and 11-12, which depend from claims 4 and 10, should be considered allowable for the same reason that claims 4 and 10 are allowable. Claims 1 and 7 having been cancelled, their rejection should be considered moot. Withdrawal of the rejections, and reexamination and reconsideration of the claims remaining in the application, is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 944-6522.

Respectfully submitted,

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